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*Comment Received From: San Diego State University - Imperial Valley
Submitted On: 8/24/2023
Docket Number: 23-AFC-03*

Letter of Support

Additional submitted attachment is included below.



San Diego State
University

Imperial Valley
San Diego State University
720 Heber Avenue
Calexico, CA 92231-2403
O: 760 768-5500
F: 760 768-5568
ivcampus.sdsu.edu
SDSU.edu

August 24, 2023

Drew Bohan
Executive Director
California Energy Commission
715 P Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for the Black Rock Geothermal Project (23-AFC-03)

Dear Mr. Bohan:

On behalf of San Diego State University-Imperial Valley, we write to express our enthusiastic support of the Black Rock Geothermal Project proposed in Imperial County, California. We are the only four-year university in the Imperial Valley with fifteen academic degree offerings. In fall of 2025, we will open our new state of the art STEM building, funded with support from Governor Newsom with support from our state representatives. As we prepare for opening new teaching and research laboratories, we will be adding new degrees in STEM related fields in the sciences and engineering. Our goal is to recruit and retain students by growing our local talent and your future workforce from the Imperial Valley. This \$80 million dollar STEM building will provide research and teaching labs area also built with the intent of supporting our industry partners. We anticipate that students who attend SDSU-IV will also want to work and remain in the Valley given their strong family and cultural ties to this region. This will translate to a significant labor pool to support the geothermal industry. As we move forward, we look forward to developing partnerships and collaborations with our local industry leaders to secure support for our students in terms of internships, apprenticeships, and future employment as we engage in cutting edge scientific research in renewable energies.

By generating geothermal energy 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, the Black Rock Geothermal Project will provide critically needed new, renewable baseload generating capacity to support grid reliability and the State's transition to clean, carbon-free electricity.

The Black Rock Geothermal Project will also provide significant economic benefits to Imperial County. Capital expenditures from the project are estimated to bring \$475 to \$800 million to the local economy, creating over 426 construction jobs and 61 permanent jobs to support maintenance and operation of the facility. In addition to the many jobs that will be created, the project will generate substantial tax revenue and support the local economy through direct purchase of services, supplies, and materials from local and regional companies.

For these reasons, we support the Black Rock Geothermal Project. We look forward to the timely consideration and approval of the project by the California Energy Commission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Guillermina Gina Nuñez M." The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'G' and a distinct 'M' at the end.

Dr. Guillermina Gina Nuñez-Mchiri,
Dean San Diego State University-Imperial Valley
gnunez@sdsu.edu